

the health insurance industry cannot help itself when it comes to pocketing profits at the expense of the American people and American businesses.

At precisely the moment when you would think the health insurance industry would want to demonstrate some restraint, because it's been telling us for months that it can accomplish voluntarily all the things that we want to try to impose in terms of better regulation on their practices, putting competition in place in terms of a public option, at precisely that moment when they have an opportunity to demonstrate restraint, I've been going around my district and hearing from businesses and employers who are just now getting the notices, the renewal notices on what the insurance premiums are going to be starting in January; and they're looking at 20 percent increases, 25 percent, 30 percent. So that sends a strong message that the insurance industry voluntarily is not going to do the right thing.

That's why we've got to get a good, strong insurance reform in place that puts best practices in place with respect to that industry and provides some competition. That's what we're working for right now.

PROSECUTING THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation at war, and our Commander-in-Chief is more focused on how to engineer a government takeover of our health care system than he is on prosecuting the war in Afghanistan. It is my belief, having read General McChrystal's 65-page report on what is necessary to win this war, that he was pressured by the administration to strip his request for how many troops out of this report.

When things were going bad in Iraq in 2007, the Commander-in-Chief then, George W. Bush, turned to his military commander on the ground in Iraq and said, What will it take to turn this situation around? And General Petraeus came up with a plan, came before the Armed Services Committees for the House and the Senate to address what was necessary to turn the tide in Iraq, and he was granted what he requested for.

The President needs to allow General McChrystal to give an honest assessment of what it will take to win in Afghanistan, and General McChrystal needs to share that with the Congress of the United States.

RYAN WHITE TREATMENT ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise enthusiastically to sup-

port the extension of the Ryan White Treatment Act but also the full authorization.

I was here in Washington with Senator Kennedy and Senator ORRIN HATCH in 1990 when this vital, life-saving bill was implemented to provide treatment for those who were infected with HIV. I was a member of the Houston City Council at that time, in awe because of the high number of HIV cases in the city of Houston.

We must continue to address the treatment of HIV and the prevention of it, as well as ending the stigma that comes with that disease.

As well, let me say that it is important for health care reform to pass because we will get back to the idea of prevention and access for all to health care. And I'm very glad to support legislation in the Judiciary Committee that is going to stop price fixing for health premiums, health insurance premiums and medical malpractice premiums.

My good friends, extend and pass the Ryan White Treatment Act and support a vigorous public option for health care reform. America will see brighter days ahead of her and be able to provide access to health care for all Americans.

STOP VOTING TO KILL JOBS

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, health insurance reform should not cost my patients their jobs. I have with me some disturbing numbers about our economy.

My home State of Georgia has a 10.1 percent unemployment rate. This is about 10 percent worse than when the Democrats passed their supposed "job creating stimulus bill." The overall unemployment rate in the United States, as we know now, is 9.8 percent, and 15 million Americans are actively looking for work.

Now, the Democrats are asking this Congress to vote to kill more jobs. Their health care reform plan, funded through massive new taxes on employers, will result in as many as 5.5 million additional lost jobs. Don't believe me? Well, ask the 22 Democrats who signed a letter to Speaker PELOSI on July 16 telling her the Obama plan would cause an increase of many small business taxes to up to 50 percent.

Mr. Speaker, Georgia businesses cannot afford any more job-killing taxes. And I respectfully ask you, on behalf of all Georgians, please stop voting to kill jobs.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY BY THE NUMBERS

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, through their words and votes, the Republican Party has been urging the American people not to stand in the way of a Great Depression. They unanimously voted against the President's economic stimulus package. But let me quote the nonpartisan economist, Robert Samuelson, this week. He says: In early 2009, consumer and business spending was collapsing. The stimulus has helped stabilize the economy. It has saved jobs that otherwise would have been lost. And interest rates didn't rise.

Now, there's obviously work still to be done. The numbers show, though, that we averted an economic depression and put our economy on a path toward recovery. We know that that road to recovery is long, but it's clear that things are starting to turn around.

A million jobs have been created or saved by the Recovery Act; 250,000 education jobs; 30,000 jobs created or saved by businesses that received Federal contracts from just a small part of the Recovery Act; and 500,000 responsible homeowners have signed up for the foreclosure prevention program.

Mr. Speaker, this stimulus investment is working and it deserves bipartisan support.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. You know, the American people cherish our freedom of speech and a free and independent press. That's why I found this morning's headlines so troubling.

Goaded on by a White House increasingly intolerant of criticism, lately the national media has taken aim at conservative commentators in radio and television, suggesting that they only speak for a small group of activists, and even suggests in one report today that Republicans in Washington are "worried about their electoral effect." Well, that's hogwash.

To suggest the men and women that are taking a stand for fiscal discipline and traditional values in the national debate today only speak for "grass-roots activists" is absurd. As evidenced by the hundreds of thousands who filled town hall meetings this summer and the nearly million Americans that gathered here in Washington in September, millions of American, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, are worried about liberal social policies and runaway Federal spending, deficit, and debt.

So, to my friends in the so-called mainstream media, I say, conservative talk show hosts may not speak for everybody, but they speak for more Americans than you do.

□ 1030

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3585, SOLAR TECH-
NOLOGY ROADMAP ACT

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 846 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 846

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3585) to guide and provide for United States research, development, and demonstration of solar energy technologies, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science and Technology. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Science and Technology or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. FOOX.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative

days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 846 provides a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 3585, the Solar Technology Roadmap Act. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI and provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Science and Technology Committee. It provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Science and Technology Committee shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read.

The rule waives all points of order against the substitute except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Such amendments may be offered only in the order printed in the report and shall be offered by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall not be subject to demand for division of the question. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI.

The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Chair may entertain a motion to rise only if offered by the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology, and the Chair may not entertain motions to strike out the enacting clause.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 weeks right down the street on the National Mall, 20 teams of university students competed in the biannual Department of Energy's solar decathlon. These teams competed not just for victory but for innovation and public awareness as well.

Every 2 years, teams from all over the globe prove unequivocally, either rain or shine, under the all-too-frequently cloudy skies of Washington, D.C., our Nation's Capital, that solar power is not only here for the future, but is here and ready to go today. These teams showcase both cutting-edge technology and technology that has been around for decades. Technology that creates jobs, promotes energy independence, combats climate change just simply isn't getting the attention it deserves from several blocks away here on the Hill.

The solar decathlon itself is noticing an interesting trend that speaks to what's occurring on a global scale. Teams like the two-time winners from my congressional district, the University of Colorado, unfortunately aren't finding the support that they need, and

the University of Colorado had to cancel their program to compete this year, while teams from Europe and elsewhere continue to find the budget to compete and to win.

Right now because of the policies we have and have not passed, our country is starting to lose the innovation race in technology. Europe, China, and other countries are leapfrogging us in the race to refine the technology that will power our future.

This past Monday, The Wall Street Journal's "Power Plays" section highlighted America's competitiveness problem, which has been seen and felt by the many solar and clean-tech companies in my district for years.

Our technology is draining away to countries who know how to support and foster its growth. The Wall Street Journal highlighted how China is taking the lead in solar energy investment and drastically cutting the price of the technology and its development, making it harder for U.S. companies to compete.

Mr. Speaker, up until now Congress' attitude towards renewable energy and solar has been wanting. We failed time after time to support the small businesses, the technology, and the policies that could have and should have changed our Nation's energy outlook years ago.

American solar businesses have had to deal with the uncertainty of not knowing what government policies will be in place from one year to the next; production in investment tax credits have ebbed and flowed with no real consistency.

As someone with a background in business, I know this simply just doesn't work. Whether you're figuring out your payroll or trying to secure investments, without long-term certainty with regard to the playing fields, you have a hard time accomplishing either. Our policies towards solar research have been equally sporadic with no real directive to lead our research or investment.

We desperately need to focus our research and focus our investments, and this legislation will do that.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, this bill is a game changer. This bill is the focus, this bill is the directive that we as a Nation need in order to realize the great potential that solar energy has had for decades and will have for our future. By creating this road map, we will have the foremost experts in the world focusing our research, focusing our policies, and focusing our vision on what is possible and what will be achieved; and in doing so, we will encourage investment by providing the long-term assurance that the market is so desperately looking for.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOOX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado for yielding time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule before us today. The underlying legislation is being brought to